

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1151

By Jernigan

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative Mike Stewart for his service as a member of the House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with the utmost integrity and whose efforts during their time in office have been dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their districts and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Mike Stewart of East Nashville is one such distinguished public servant, who has served both his constituency and this legislative body with honor and ability; and

WHEREAS, first elected to the General Assembly in 2008, Mike Stewart quickly became a leading progressive voice at the State Capitol and rose through the ranks to serve as House Democratic Caucus Chairman; and

WHEREAS, during his fourteen-year tenure in the House, Representative Stewart has been a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic life of Nashville, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand complex issues; and

WHEREAS, he has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good people of the 52nd House District, whom he has served as a member of the 106th through 112th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Mike Stewart has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed member who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, during the 112th General Assembly, Representative Stewart has rendered sterling service as a member of the House Civil Justice Committee, House Government Operations Committee, House Children and Family Affairs Subcommittee, and Joint Government Operations Judiciary and Government Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he has been honored with the Tennessee Young Democrats Shining Star Award and the Legislative Friends Award and Good Green Deeds Award by Tennessee Conservation Voters; he was also selected by the State Legislative Leaders Foundation to attend the Emerging Leaders Program at the Darden School, University of Virginia, and was named a NewDEAL Leader by the NewDEAL Network; and

WHEREAS, Mike Stewart is the son of Nancy Stewart and John Stewart, who served as an aide to Senator, and ultimately Vice President, Hubert Humphrey in Washington, D.C.; the Stewart family moved to Knoxville in the early 1980s when John Stewart accepted a job at TVA; and

WHEREAS, Mike Stewart graduated from Webb School Knoxville and then attended the University of Pennsylvania to study history on an ROTC scholarship; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, Representative Stewart became an officer in the United States Army, serving in the Korean Demilitarized Zone and in Saudi Arabia and Iraq as part of Operation Desert Storm; as a platoon leader operating surveillance sites monitoring the North Korean Army, he received the Eighth Army Distinguished Leader Award; and

WHEREAS, upon leaving military service, he entered law school at the University of Tennessee (UT) in the fall of 1991 and joined moot court and the law review; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Mike Stewart married his wife, Ruth, and graduated with honors from the UT College of Law shortly after the wedding; the Stewarts then moved to Nashville, and Mike began his law career at the firm Waller, Lansden, Dortch and Davis, where he spent several productive years working in tax litigation; and

WHEREAS, after being elected to the House, Representative Stewart became a partner at Branstetter, Stranch & Jennings, a firm with deep roots in the labor and civil rights movements, as the firm's founding partner defended the Highlander Center, where Rosa Parks prepared for her work as an activist; and

WHEREAS, Mike Stewart has proven that citizens can make a difference by being involved in their community, which principle he has demonstrated through his service as a member of the Davidson County Emergency Communications Board, a trustee of East End United Methodist Church, and president of the Lockeland Springs Neighborhood Association; and

WHEREAS, his many personal and professional accomplishments aside, Mike Stewart is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his family; he and his wife, Ruth, who is now Associate Dean of Medical Education at Meharry Medical College, have lived in their same East Nashville home for twenty-seven years and attend East End United Methodist Church; they have been blessed with three children, Will, Joseph, and Eve; and

WHEREAS, in his rare free time, he enjoys preparing meals for his family and is an amazing cook; he is also a tireless hiker and traveler and loves reading dense policy books and then discussing their contents and ideas with all who will engage with him in conversation; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding career as a public servant, Mike Stewart has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents, bringing to his office a progressive voice; and

WHEREAS, Representative Stewart is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized upon his exemplary tenure in the General Assembly as he departs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor Representative Mike Stewart for his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the House of Representatives, commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the constituents of the 52nd House District and the citizens of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.